

Minutes from the third meeting of WeCAN held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
May 20, 2008 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the whole meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Hall (317) 896-5570 if you have any questions. -TB

Please see the links for the meeting on the WeCAN webpage.

May 20, 2008

Agenda:

1. Action Item – **Waste Management**
2. Inquiry – **Development**
3. Introduction – **Parks and Recreation, Sidewalks, Trails**

1. Action Item – Waste Management

Results from the trash service survey which polled residents on details of their trash service was presented.

Comments from the City of Westfield

- Service levels vary across Westfield, even within the same neighborhood
- Survey is not meant to criticize providers or to take away from providers; want to utilize the private sector to benefit the residents
- Price is not the only issue, recycling and organic collection is important
- Want Westfield to be a model city for being green/environmentally sensitive

Discussion Points

Bids

- Want to see vendors as an arm of the city; have the vendors come in and make bids
- Bid system worked in Arizona
- Work composting and recycling into bidding

Billing and Collection

- Great savings in central billing
- Who should be billed?: Individual, HOA, City

Program

- Would suggestion be by Council or to Council? To Council would be effective
- Should be voluntary; less funding available from some HOAs, won't pay more
- Some HOAs must get permission to change covenants; HOA by HOA basis
- If HOA goes by itself and negotiates a lower price, would present obstacle

Recycling

- Mandatory recycling ordinance
- Make it financially lucrative, don't see it otherwise
- Can get methane from landfill
- Composting area-would people take it or have to have it picked up?
- Parks could use composting materials
- Recycling should be a priority above price
- Indiana is 49th in regard to being green; should try to change that even if it costs more
- Currently only paper recycling in Westfield;
- Residents go to Indianapolis for plastic/aluminum/cardboard recycling
- NJ gives credit on residents' bills for recycling; would be great if we could do something similar in Westfield

Trash Conclusion

At the meeting, we formed a committee of 6 representatives to raise more questions and find answers before next WeCAN meeting (June 24). This is the opportunity to field the vendors for responses, what is ideal for the vendors and the residents of Westfield to get level of service consistency and transparency.

Committee members: Tony Ancich (Ashfield); David Ellsworth (Carey Commons); Jim Ake (Centennial); Larry Stewart (Downtown); Jon Helms (Setters Run); Ted Engelbrecht (Silver Lakes)

If you have questions/suggestions for the Committee, please email Tammy at tblackburn@westfield.in.gov with the details.

If your neighborhood has not taken the Trash Service Survey, please fill it out as soon as possible. Please include as much detail as possible so we can accurately compare the costs and services.

2. Inquiry - Development

Community Development

- Land Use – What is going to happen on each vacant corner?
- Communication – Contact information for Developer or Owner for vacant lots
- Can't find details about development projects – 151st, Carey, Gray
- Where to find Strategic Plans
- Public Transportation

Economic Development

- Where we are at and where are we going as a city?
- Tax base, residential and commercial mix
- What types of businesses would support the Westfield?
- How can Westfield benefit from winning the Superbowl bid?
- How do we keep residents in Westfield instead of going to neighboring communities to shop or eat?

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Downtown

- What are plans for development/appearance/identity
- Free Wi-Fi in Westfield (fiber optic)

Infrastructure

- 31 project and how it affects residents and City plans
- Traffic management
- Currently City meets with INDOT about twice a week
- Possible Monorail or other mode of transportation to get downtown

3. Parks and Recreation, Sidewalks, Trails

100% of the Parks and Recreation Department was represented. Director Curt Cooley is the sole employee of the Parks Department. He explained that Westfield has a lot of trails, also known as “linear parks”, and they are much cheaper to maintain.

Mr. Cooley passed out the Parks and Recreation Guide and Westfield Trails and Pathway Guide.

Parks

The “Spray/Splash Park” at Quaker Park will be open Memorial Day to Labor Day. In January, the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department won an Outstanding Park Development Award for the redevelopment of Quaker Park.

Armstrong Park will be developed given funding and speaking with the HOA.

Everyone should go to Freedom Trails Park. It is 20 acres and is bordered by Cool Creek. The address is 550 Deer Walk Trace.

There are several trail heads with parking at existing parks and more trail heads will be built.

Trails

The Monon and Midland trails are the new focus. The junction of the two trails is unique to Westfield. It will be a point of interest in the plans for downtown. There will be a loop going around the downtown area.

A federal grant will be used to construct the Monon from 146th – 156th. Construction is expected to begin around August or September. Governor Mitch Daniel’s just announced that Westfield will be receiving \$900,000 to construct 161st to SR 32. Hopefully construction will also begin before the end of this year.

Public Works or Hamilton County maintains the trails. Passage trails to the Monon and Midland trails are being planned.

Moving forward, every neighborhood must provide sidewalks or trails when building. The developer builds the cost into the cost of the home.

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In order to build the trail, the City must ask owners on both sides of the potential trail. The Monon curves in a few places to go around existing businesses.

A trail will be built by the High School and under 31 away from the streets.

Funding

Parks will ask for donation of land from corporations

Currently \$140,000 in the City General Fund for Parks

Park impact fess of \$930 are being collected from developers

Priorities

Priorities are set by the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Park Advisory Committee, staff, and community survey.

Priorities are a moving target, as the downtown plan was not an option yet.

Community Survey Results, about 300-400 responses indicated what residents wanted were: #1 Trails, #2 Aquatics Center, #3 Youth Sports/Recreation Center.

Bike Lanes

Multi-use paths of new construction should make biking more accessible.

Future

Mayor Cook would like to see a more firm financial plan for parks in the next 2 years. Another goal is to establish a Parks Foundation. More signage is also necessary for residents to be more aware of the parks. Corporate and community group sponsorships will also be researched further.